

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SOFTWARE  
PROTECTION VIA MULTIPLE-ROUTE EXECUTION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method, apparatus, and article of manufacture for protecting a shelled computer program with a startup code featuring multiple-route execution. In one embodiment, the startup code comprises a sequence of tasks, collectively executing a startup code, wherein one or more of the tasks is selectively performed by one of a plurality of task code variations as selected by a selection code associated with the task.

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